

big as to be quite out of proportion to the rest of its body, and have two well-developed elbows with barbs inside to help in gripping whatever they may seize.

The mantis is a cannibal. It would as quickly eat another mantis as some other creature. Bees, wasps, grasshoppers, are its most frequent victims. But the greatest crime of them all is committed by the female mantis on her mate. The females are larger and stronger than the males and when the latter seem to have lost their usefulness, the females eat them up.

The egg case of a praying mantis is an artistic, delicately sculptured creation. Down the middle of tree trunks these are attached and they give the appearance of a braid. When egg-laying time comes nature gives the mantis materials with which to work. These are secreted from its body and she develops a goodly quantity of froth. While this is still soft, she begins shaping her egg case. Then she places her eggs, some scores of them, and covers them with lighter material.

When this egg cluster hatch in the following June, the tiny creatures fall prey to many enemies. Many more are eaten than escape. It would seem that it might be that the massacre of their brothers and sisters when they first appeared had embittered the mantis, and that, through the rest of its life, it devoted itself to taking vengeance on the insect world.

Perhaps you have come to the conclusion that the mantis is blood thirsty, greedy, murderous. But on the contrary the mantis are man's friends. They eat nothing that is useful to him. They eat his enemies. They keep down the number of those insects that are harmful to him. They are important in maintaining that balance in nature which makes the world a pleasant place in which to live.

PLANTS ABOUT US

PHILIPPINE RESINS

Our forests contain a large number of trees and other plants which produce seed oils, resins, and gums. A number of such forest products are used locally, while a few enter into the foreign commerce of the Islands. The most important oil-producing plants, which can be regarded as strictly agricultural and never wild, are the coconut palm and peanut.

Some of the resinous products and seed oils from Philippine forests are used extensively in the preparation of paints and varnishes, while others are employed for medicinal purposes, illumination, and the manufacture of soaps.

Resins and gums are products obtained from the secretions of plants, but are more often secured by making cuts in the bark or trunk. Resins are formed by the evaporation of resinous juices which flow out naturally from the trunks of trees or when the trunks are cut. When they harden they are solid and do not dissolve in water but in alcohol or in oils. Resins can also be found as mineral resin which are products of dead vegetation. Gum resins are plant secretions and these are the substances that go into the making of your chewing and bubble gum.

Some of the common kinds of resins are almaciga and turpentine. Almaciga is used as incense in religious ceremonies, for torches, starting fires, caulking boats, as a smudge for mosquitoes. It is exported in great quantities and used chiefly in the manufacture of high grade varnish, in the making of leather and sealing wax.

Two kinds of pines found here are sources of turpentine. Turpentine collected from these trees has an appearance of crystallized honey and possesses a pleasant odor. We have many trees that yield resins in our forest in Mindanao, and they but wait the industrious hands of people for them to yield their stored-up wealth. May some of the young, eager eyes that read about them be spurred on by the ambition to go after these forest treasures.